

Sunrise Reservation System FAQs for Visitors

Haleakalā NP Sunrise Reservation System FAQs

- **Why is the park doing this?** To ensure visitor and employee safety, protect natural and cultural resources, and provide a quality visitor experience at the Summit during sunrise hours at the Summit (3am to 7am).
- **When will you start taking reservations?** Online reservations for sunrise on February 1 2017 will be available online starting on December 1, 2016.
- **How far in advance should I make a reservation?** Most sunrise reservations will be available up to 2 months ahead of time. A few more reservations will be made available 24 hours ahead of time. Sunrise viewing is one of the most popular things to do on Maui. Plan 2 months ahead and make your online reservations.
- **What does a sunrise reservation cost?** \$1.50.
- **How do I get into the park for sunrise?** Make an online reservation via www.recreation.gov. The person whose name is on sunrise reservation will need to present it, with a photo ID, at the entrance station on the day specified on the reservation. Cars with sunrise reservations will need to display their reservation printouts on their dashboards. Also, be prepared to pay the entrance fee (or use a park pass) on the day of your visit. Credit cards are preferred and make the process of entry faster.
- **Do I need a sunrise reservation for any other time of day?** No, you only need a sunrise reservation to access the summit during sunrise hours (3am to 7am). The sunrise reservation can only be used on the day specified on the reservation itself.
- **What is the difference between the sunrise reservation and the park entrance fee?** The sunrise reservation allows access to the summit district between 3am and 7am on one specific day. The entrance fee provides entry into both districts of the park for three days—keep your receipt.
- **Can my sunrise reservation be used on a day other than the one specified?** No. You can only enter the park between 3 and 7 a.m. on the date specified on your sunrise reservation.
- **Can my entrance fee be used on any days other than the day I arrive?** Your entrance fee is good for three days, starting on the date of first entry, in both park districts. Keep your receipt to show at either entrance station.
- **Where are the 4 places to view sunrise?** In order from highest to lowest elevation, the four viewpoints are: the Pu`u Ula ula or Red Hill summit (10,023 ft.); Haleakalā Visitor Center (9,740 ft.); Kalahaku Overlook (9324 ft.); and Leleiwi Overlook (8840ft). Leleiwi Overlook is accessed via a 10 minute hike from its parking lot.
- **What is the best place to view sunrise?** All four overlooks all have great views of sunrise over the crater, weather permitting.
- **Can I pick where I want to park or will I be directed to a particular parking lot?** You will be directed by park staff to one of four open parking lots. All have great views of sunrise over the crater.
- **Why can't we pay the entrance fee online when we buy our parking reservation?** The recreation.gov website cannot currently accommodate purchases of both entrance fees and sunrise reservations at this time. If this changes we may be able to accommodate online entrance pass purchases at a later time.

- **What if it is too cloudy to see the sunrise? Can I get a refund or exchange my parking reservation for a different day?** No, your sunrise reservation is good for one day only. Weather is constantly changing at the summit of Haleakalā and we can't predict whether a sunrise is going to be clear or cloudy.
- **Why 3am to 7am?** This is when many of our visitors enter the Summit District to view sunrise and is our busiest time of day there.
- **I am going to camp at Hosmer Grove (in the summit district) and not go to the sunrise viewing areas. Do I need a sunrise reservation?** If you enter the park to camp at Hosmer's Grove outside of the 3-7 a.m. window and do not travel up to one of the four highest parking lots between 3 and 7 a.m., then you do not need a sunrise reservation. Vehicles in the 4 sunrise viewing parking lots (Summit, Haleakalā Visitor Center, Kalahaku and Leleiwi) between 3-7 a.m. must display their sunrise reservation printouts on their dashboards. In addition, everyone entering the Summit District of the park between 3 and 7 a.m. must have a sunrise reservation that is displayed on their vehicle dashboards, even if they do not plan on viewing sunrise.
- **I am going to hike into the crater at Halemau'u and not go to the sunrise viewing areas. Do I need a sunrise reservation?** Everyone entering the Summit District of the park between 3 and 7 a.m. must have a sunrise reservation that is displayed on their vehicle dashboards, even if they do not plan on viewing sunrise. This is due to limited parking throughout the summit area.
- **Do you have plans to increase parking at the summit?** In 2017-2018, the park will be developing a long term Sunrise Summit Visitor Management Plan, with public input. The plan is expected to be finalized and implemented in 2018. Many options to improve the visitor experience will be reviewed during this planning process.
- **What do we do if we drive up to the park for sunrise w/o a sunrise reservation?** Visitors who come up to the park without a sunrise reservation will not be allowed to enter the Summit District until after 7a.m. They will be directed to turn around at the entrance.
- **What if I get up to the summit before 3am and don't have a sunrise reservation? Will I be told to leave?** If you don't have a sunrise reservation you will be asked to leave the summit area and you risk being issued a citation.
- **Do commercial tours need a sunrise reservation?** There is no change to the current Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) policy regarding sunrise tours. The new reservation system applies to non-commercial sunrise visitors only. CUA permit holders will continue to follow the procedures and limits required under the park's Commercial Use Authorization.
- **Is it better for me to come up on my own or take a commercial tour?** It depends on what kind of experience you are looking for and how far ahead of time you can plan your trip. Commercial tours park at Haleakalā Visitor Center, on the rim of the crater just below the summit. Private vehicles can park at one of four lots, as directed by park staff.
- **Who offers commercial sunrise tours?** A list of current Commercial Use Authorizations is available at:
<https://www.nps.gov/hale/learn/management/currentcua.htm>
- **What about Native Hawaiians who want to conduct cultural traditions at sunrise?** Haleakalā National Park welcomes, and waives the entrance fee, for Native Hawaiians who wish to conduct their traditional cultural practices at sunrise or any other time of day

under AIRFA, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act. There will be no change to the National Park Service's current policy regarding Kanaka Maoli who wish to conduct traditional cultural practices in the park.

- **How long will this new system last?** This program is a “pilot” program designed to protect employee and visitor safety, natural and cultural resources, and provide a quality visitor experience at the Summit during sunrise hours. In 2017, the park will be developing a long term Sunrise Summit Visitor Management Plan, with public input. The plan is expected to be finalized and implemented in 2019.
- **How many spaces are available to sunrise visitors at the summit?** 150 parking spaces serve the 4 sunrise viewing areas.
- **What about educational groups?** They will be required to obtain a sunrise reservation via recreation.gov.
- **What about vehicles with handicap/disabled placards?** All non-commercial visitors who comes up for sunrise will need to make an advanced reservation via recreation.gov. We will accommodate visitors with special needs to the best of our ability with our accessible parking spaces.
- **What if all the disabled spaces are full?** Park staff will work with disabled visitors to accommodate their needs.
- **Can visitors walk or bike up without a reservation?** Yes, however we do not recommend that people walk up the summit road since it is dark and crowded at that time of day.
- **Under what authority are you allowed to restrict visitors to a national park?** 36 CFR Section 1.5 restricts sunrise visitation as an emergency action to protect visitor and staff safety and park resources.

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